

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /070 W
----- 090855

R 310940Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HNG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15642

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT; JCP-CCP HANDSHAKE SPARKS SPECULATION ABOUT RAPPROACHMENT

SUMMARY: RECENTLY MEDIA HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF SECRET HANOI MEETING BETWEEN JCP CHAIRMAN SANZO NOSAKA AND PRC VICE PREMIER CHEN HSI-LIEN AND SPECUALTED THAT JCP AND CCP MAY B PREPARING TO MEND NIN-YEAR BREAK. JCP, HOWEVER, DENIES ANYTHING MORE THAN PRO FORMA HANDSHAKE INVOLVED. JCP HAS GOOD CAUSE--ITS DOMESTIC POLITICAL FORTUNES--TO BE WARY OF TALK ABOUT RENEWED CONTACTS WITH CCP. END SUMMARY.

1. LEADING OTHER PRESS REPORTS, OCTOBER 2 INAUGURAL EDITION OF DAILY TABLOID "MODERN TIMES DAILY" (NIKKAN GENDAI) CARRIED STROY ALLEGING THAT SECRET TALKS WERE HELD BETWEEN JCP CHAIRMAN SANZO NOSAKA AND PRC DEPUTY PREMIER (AND CCP POLITBURO MEMBER) CHEN HSI-LIEN IN HANOI HILE BOTH WERE HEADING DELEGATIONS TO NORTH VIETNMAN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. IF TRUE, THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE FIRST HIGH LEVEL CONTACT IN
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NINE YEARS, FLLLOWING 1966 JCP BREAK WITH PEKING AND

ITS SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION OF INDEPENDENT AND, AT TIMES,
VIRTUOLICALLY ANTI CCP POLICY LINE.

2. FOLLOWING STORY'S PUBLICATION, JCP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
BUREAU CHIEF HIRISHI KIKUNAMI HASTILY CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE
TO ATTACK REPORT AS A COCK-AND BULL STORY. PLACING INITIATIVE
SQUARELY ON CHEN, KIKUNAMI SAID NOSAKA HAD MERELY RECIPROCATED
AT RECEPION WHEN CHINESE DELEGATION LEADER OFFERED TO SHAKE
HANDS AND EXCHANGE A FEW PLEASANTRIES. DENYING ANY POLITICAL
CONTENT TO EXCHANGE, KIKUNAMI SAID NOSAKA WAS JUST BEING CIVIL.
KIKUNAMI NOTED THAT NOSAKA AND CHEN HAD A NODDING ACQUAINTEN-
ANCE DATING TO NOSAKA'S WARTIME RESIDENCE IN YENAN.

3. ASHAI, IN A SEMI-SPECULATIVE PAGE TWO STORY COVERING
KIKUNAMI PRESS CONFERENCE, COMMENTED THAT SOME OBSERVERS VIEW
HANDSHAKE EXERCISE AS POSSIBLE PRELUDE TO RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN JCP AND CCP. LENDING CREDENCE TO HIS SPECULATION,
ASHAI NOTED THAT JCP WAR OF WORDS AIMED AT AND CCP HAS RECENTLY
COOLED.

4. COMMENT. WE ALSO BELIEVE JCP IS TONING DOWN IDEOLOGICAL
ATTACKS ON CHINESE AND, IF SUBSTANTIVE HANOI MEETING IN FACT
TOOK PACE, PARTIES COULD CONCEIVABLY BE SETTING STAGE FOR
GRADUAL RESUMPTION OF TIES, PRESUMABLY ON A MORE QUAL BASIS.
BUT SHARPNESS OF JCP DENIAL SUGGESTS THAT IT IS VERY WARY.
IT HAS GOOD REASON TO BE. IN YEARS SINCE 1966 BREAK, JCP
LEADERSHIP HAS EJECTED MAOISTS, REJECTED REVOLUTIONARY COURSE,
AND CAREFULLY BURNISHED INDEPENDENT MODERATE IMAGE. THIS
HAS LED TO SHARPLY IMPROVED ELECTORAL PERFORMANCE. BUT
THIS PROGRESS IS LIKELY TO BE QUICKLY REVERSED IF IT
APPEARS TO VOTERS THAT JCP IS AGAIN COMING UNDER FOREIGN
INFLUENCE.
HODGSON

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